

10 Southwell Gardens London S.W.

4 Nov - 1884

My dear Gray - We duly arrived after a rough but quick passage - reaching Queenstown in 7 days - where my wife disembarked while I went on to Liverpool in order to see luggage (plants &c) safely through the custom house - I found as usual a huge pile of letters awaiting my return & have been kept busy in answering the more pressing ones.

We had the Thompsons (very pleasant & sympathetic) & some other scientific men on board but the heavy rolling of the ship made many sick & was inconvenient to all.

I stupidly omitted to note down your advice as to poisoning plants with Arsenic & must beg of you to let me have exact instructions I forget whether you see objections to the use of methylated spirit.

I bound up all your 'Contributions'

that I proposed last winter forming
a goodly volume - I enclose a rough
list of these - nearly all due to your liberality
& besides these have since had from you
the part published in 1883 - 'Characters of
new Compositae etc' & your recent
'Revision of N. A. sp. of *Oxytropis* & *Saxifraga*' -

I have also your monograph of *Rhynchospora*
& paper in the Ann. Sc. Nat. on *Shortia galacifolia* -
Whether this exhausts the list of your shorter
papers on descriptive Botany I cannot say
but if you happen to have any duplicates
of others not in the above list you will
add to my obligations by sending them -

Of course I don't refer to the more considerable
works such as *Plantae Wrightianae*. *Pl. Thunbergianae*
Chloris B. Americana &c. which I have procured
some time ago -

I came home with a heavy cold, much
aggravated by five hours' delay in the
landing at Liverpool on a raw foggy morning,
but though nearly well I have not yet
got out to Kew or seen any friends

My wife is very well & joins in sending
our love to you & Mrs Gray

always truly yours

John Ball

P.S. You omitted to endorse the
cheque which you sent to Mr Janssen
for Forbes's Malayan plants - but
I have set the matter right -
'There are spots in the sun!'

Notwithstanding your wealth
I hope to be able to add something
to your herbarium from my
S. American collections